



CASTING YOUR ARKANSAS BALLOT

Voting Guidelines for Military Personnel Serving Overseas • From Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

Your Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) may provide you with a **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot** for casting your vote in this year's General Election. This is a generic ballot for writing in your choice in specific races and for other issues in your home state. To help you make informed decisions, Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels is proud to provide a list of candidates and issues from your hometown to guide you in completing your ballot. The list provided to you is specific to your county and even your precinct — you will vote on all the same races as your family at home.

You may also have the opportunity to vote a **Standard Absentee Ballot** from the county where you live. That type of ballot is the same type that is available to all absentee voters, both military and civilian. However, it is possible that not all counties would be able to provide the standard ballot in time for shipment overseas. If you complete the Federal Write-In ballot and later receive a standard ballot, you should complete the standard ballot, as well. Even if you send in two ballots, the election commission in your home county will only count the standard ballot, and you will not be penalized for “voting twice.”



Candidate List Section 1

In the first section of your Arkansas Candidate List, you'll find the names of all the people running for each office in your home county. That includes all the candidates for President/Vice President, U.S. Senate and local races such as County Judge, as well as local issues (sales tax measures, annexations, etc.). Statewide issues will be listed on a separate sheet.

Section 2

The second portion of the Arkansas Candidate List contains all the races within individual precincts in your county. These races include offices such as State Legislator Alderman and Justice of the Peace. If you know which precinct you would normally vote in at home, it's easy to locate the races you should vote for.

If you do not know your precinct, there are several ways to find out. If you have access to e-mail or telephones, your family members in your household may be able to tell you the precinct they vote in. You can also check a number of websites — look on the back of this sheet for suggested sites.



Casting Your Vote

To cast your vote, simply decide who you want to vote for, then write in the office and the candidate's name on your ballot (such as “U.S. Senator - Bobby Badd”). To vote on an issue, write the number, then write “Yes” to vote for the issue or “No” to vote against it (such as “Amendment 6 - Yes”).



Need More Info?

If you need help, ask your VAO officer or check the resources provided on the back of this page to find out more about the candidates and the issues.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ISSUES



How Do I Learn More About a Candidate?

There may be many candidates and issues on your Arkansas ballot that you don't feel you know enough about to make a decision. But there are several ways to learn more so you make informed choices.

- *Family Members* — If you can call or e-mail members of your family, they can often help fill you in on current community issues.
- *Hometown Newspaper* — If you receive newspapers from home -- even if they are several months old -- you can often find information on candidates and issues on your ballot. You can even share papers with fellow troops and discuss your opinions.
- *Internet* — If you have Internet access where you are stationed, there are many places to go for candidate information. Here are a few sites we recommend:

- ☆ **www.arelections.org** — Site hosted by the Secretary of State that provides candidate photos and general information, as well as the full text for proposed acts and amendments.
- ☆ **www.arkansaspress.org/members.html** — A list of websites for local newspapers, hosted by the Arkansas Press Association.



What's My Precinct Number?

At home, you are assigned a precinct number that indicates which races you are eligible to vote in based on where you live. Your precinct, for example, determines which Congressional district, city ward or justice of the peace district you fall under. If you have voted before and remember which precinct you live in, you can use that information to find your races on the Arkansas Candidate List.

If this is your first time to vote or if you don't recall your precinct, it will make it more difficult to determine your county and city district. However, you may be able to find your legislative and congressional districts from one of the following

- ☆ **Your County Clerk** — If you have access to a telephone, you can call your county clerk for precinct information. Find that number on our website at: www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections_military_voting.html
- ☆ **www.sos.arkansas.gov** — Under "Elections," click on "District Maps" for Legislative districts.
- ☆ **<http://argis.uarl.edu/website/districtfinder>** — Created by the GIS Applications Laboratory, Arkansas Institute for Economic Advancement at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



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